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April 11, 2002

William F. Caton  
Acting Secretary  
Federal Communications Commission  
445 12th Street, S.W.  
Washington, DC 20554

Ex Parte meeting in CC Docket No. 96-45

Dear Mr Caton:

On April 11, 2002, a group of consumer parties in CC Docket No. 96-45 met by telephone conference call with Commissioner Bob Rowe of the Montana Public Service Commission to discuss the Notice of the Federal-State Joint Board on Universal Service concerning the eligibility requirements for Lifeline and Link-Up services. Participants in the conference call from the parties were:

Karen Hardie and Barry Cohen, Ohio Consumers' Counsel and the National Association of State Utility Consumer Advocates (NASUCA)  
Dian Callaghan, Colorado Office of Consumer Counsel  
Lynne Montgomery, Civil Rights Forum on Communications Policy  
Jeff Kramer and Chris Baker, AARP  
Barrett Sheridan, Pennsylvania Office of Consumer Advocate  
Christopher Day, U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops, et al.  
Ron Binz, representing NASUCA members in Ohio, Pennsylvania, Missouri, Maine and Maryland

In addition to Commissioner Rowe, the following also participated in the conference call:  
Joel Shifman, Maine Public Utilities Commission  
Peter Bluhm, Vermont Public Service Board  
Mike Lee, Kate Whitney and Tina Shorten, Montana Public Service Commission

The presentations concerned the comments filed by NASUCA, the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops, et al. and the Civil Rights Forum on Communications Policy. Copies of the parties' filed comments were provided in the meeting along with the attached handout summarizing the positions of these parties.

Sincerely,

Ronald J. Binz

Attachment